

tenacity with which they adhere to them and the vigor with which they enforce the principles involved. I do not deem it necessary to go into arguments supporting the needs for compactly united organizations in each of our principal industries. The need for organization must be apparent to all. For greatest efficiency consolidation of all for the handling of problems common to all is only common sense. Question like transportation, tariffs for protection, rates of commission and kindred broad matters can only be handled powerfully and conclusively in the hands of one central organization. The methods and direction taken by each interest must be dictated by themselves.

It can do no harm to crystallize among them, into some definite form the best ideas of the most intelligent and energetic of the growers, nor need it be believed that the only value in horticultural organization is that of the maintenance of the price or cheapening the cost of the production and the proper regulation of the matter of transportation. In numerous other ways organized effort is superior to individual effort. The tendency of the times is to the enlarged costs of the material used for the packing and package purposes, the costs of living and indeed, increased cost in everything that the horticulturist purchases. The only fair method of safeguarding the growers and producers' interests is to see that increased revenue accrues to him sufficiently to meet the increased cost of production as well as the cost of living and the necessities and luxuries of life.

Concurrent with this comes the thought of the reduced cost of production by better management, more intensive cultivation, decreased cost of fertilizing by taking advantage of cheaper sources of nitrogen and other kindred economies. All of these are well and should never be forgotten. The opening up of new fields of production have helped swell the volume of material in our markets and should set us to thinking of how to overcome this new competition.

The solution of these problems will call for the best thought, the best persistent effort and the most constant watchfulness of the thoughtful classes in our midst. Among the hopeful signs of the present are the cordial relations existing between the country and the city; between the producer and the carrier; between the producer and the consumer. In these better understandings of each others' relations we see the future solution of these problems. So long as the different classes understand and appreciate each other, realize their mutual inter-dependence on each other, maintain their mutual respect for each other, that long will harmony and material prosperity exist. In passing, it might be said that the accentuation of the self-interests of the horticultural classes does not necessarily mean war upon or antagonism of any other interest.

The recent report of the U. S. Department of Agriculture calls attention to the enormous resources of American agriculture and horticulture. In comparison, all other interests combined sink into insignificance. The sums are so stupendous that we can scarcely realize their magnitude. Of this grand total we are a considerable

part. It is just cause for congratulation that the importance, vitality and dignity of the horticultural classes is being recognized.

Do our horticultural classes sufficiently appreciate the value of and the necessity for diversification? Do we realize the full meaning of living at home? Is it not a fact that too great a proportion of the income from our products goes for that which can and should be grown in our own state and possibly in our own neighborhood? We hear it discussed on all hands, but have not acted on it vigorously. While this thought is trite, I risk once more calling the attention of our people to its vital importance.

I have felt strongly impelled at this meeting to press upon your attention these important matters. To give vent to the thought that has been growing in my mind for some years, that the most vital and far-reaching questions now calling for solution by Florida producers were not cultural questions but commercial ones; not planting but marketing; not fertilizing but transportation. Let us think about these things, talk about them, study them, conquer them. If this thought, talk and study take not the form of action then have we labored in vain.

During the past few months, I addressed a circular letter to every member of the society, in which I asked for an expression of opinion on many matters of importance, and asked for suggestions. The replies have been numerous and my reward ample for the trouble I took. Much to enlighten and cheer the Society has come to me. Encouragement for the future, and splendid appreciation for the past of the Society has breathed from many of the much-valued letters received. I desire to thank you, most sincerely for these expressions of your better selves. In the quiet of your homes, you have said things that you would not say on the floor of this house. You have my promise to use the good suggestions in so far as I shall be able. These heart-to-heart letters shall bear fruit.

Among the weighty subjects discussed in those letters, was that of "State Aid" in the printing of our annual reports. A careful tabulation of the replies show about an equal number favoring and opposing the acceptance of such aid. Among those favoring, are some of our oldest and most thoughtful and experienced members. On the other side, can be found those of equal experience and wisdom. Some have cited other states in which State Aid is supposed to be the cause of their ruin as a society, while others point out other states in which it has had the opposite effect. The array of arguments pro. and con. is formidable and shows the ability and reasoning resources of our members. It is not my province or wish to discuss the questions or to express an opinion on it. If the matter comes up, all the reasoning, on all its sides and phases, will be developed and the society can then pass upon it intelligently. Without taking the time to discuss them here, I will say that many of the suggestions made by members will be carried out during the progress of the meeting, as they shall fit into our work.

We are to be favored by a number of eminent persons, with addresses and papers, during the progress of the meeting, as a glance at the program

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will show. Will these friends of the Society allow me to express, if ever so feebly, our sincere thanks for their kindness and our high appreciation of their valued efforts.

But, what of the work? We have six sessions before us, occupying two full days. We shall have seven formal addresses and papers. We shall listen to the reports of sixteen committees, and these reports will be ably and exhaustively discussed. In the course of these discussions will come out much of the real value of our gathering. Don't hesitate to stuff our "Question Box." Show me by your patronage of this box that you appreciate a chance to ask questions. Work, fast and furious, is our portion for the next few days. At the close of the meeting may we feel that we never had a better one. Amidst the friends of many years, in the city of hustle and progress, with words of welcome to inspire our efforts, with the social feasts before us, our tasks shall be light and their accomplishment assured.

Dairy Farming Pays.

This title might be said to be an axiom, for we believe it to be absolutely true. The Southern Agriculturist says:

An exchange, strictly a dairy paper, in advocating the superior advantages dairy farming has over that of feeding cattle for the butcher, cites an instance where a farmer bought a bunch of yearling steers, fed them for two years and sold at a gain of \$500. But out of the money he had to pay for the feed they consumed, which left him only a small margin of profit. Another farmer in the same vicinity started with the same amount of money at the same time, which he invested in fifteen fairly good milk cows, which he also kept for two years. Within this time he sold milk to a creamery for \$1,050, making a moderate average of \$35 a year on each cow. At the same time his cows gave him ten heifer calves, which he kept, and sold \$98 worth of calves for veal.

At the end of the two years he had not only the original herd he started with, but ten head additional, the young heifers, besides a little money in bank, while the cattle feeder had none of his original stock, and but little money to show for his investment.

While this may be an exceptional case, showing the advantage the dairy business has over that of feeding cattle, there is no doubt of the profits in dairy farming, especially under favorable circumstances, but it is not every one who is so situated. Circumstances might be such that the cattle feeder could show the greatest profit.

But in this day, however, when markets are so accessible and can be reached in such short time, there are but few farmers so situated but that they could make it profitable and pick

up a snug little sum of money annually by giving more attention to the dairy business on their farms and shipping the products, either milk or butter, to market.

In the South the dairy business from the average farmer's standpoint is yet in its infancy, while in the East the railroads entering the largest cities run special daily milk trains that haul nothing but milk and butter to market.

In the same number, a correspondent gives his experience as follows:

Dairy Experience in Mississippi.—In complying with your request to give an account of our dairy experience in Mississippi, I do so with some hesitancy, as I am only a busy farmer's wife, with no talent for writing.

But as you only ask for facts, I

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